United Nations A/65/388

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 September 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 20 (c)
Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Earthquakes in Haiti, Chile and China have provided stark reminders of the increasing disaster risk in urban areas. Smaller and more frequent disasters in communities around the world attest to rising vulnerability and insufficient capacity to cope with disaster risk at the local level.

The Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 is well under way and will be concluded by early 2011. Preliminary findings suggest that the Hyogo Framework for Action has proved useful in guiding the global effort towards disaster risk reduction. However, as also indicated in the *2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*, it also reveals that risk reduction is still not hardwired into the "business processes" of the development sectors, planning ministries and financial institutions. Strengthened political resolve is needed if the goals of the Hyogo Framework are to be reached by 2015. The coincidence with the review of the Millennium Development Goals in 2010 provides an opportunity to strengthen the linkages between these two agendas.

The present report provides an overview of progress in the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in response to General Assembly resolutions 63/215, 63/217 and 64/200. It also considers trends in disasters and disaster risks, and coordination and guidance through the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Details of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon are contained in the annexes.

10-54565 (E) 201010

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I. Trends in disasters and disaster risks

1. During the reporting period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, 394 disasters linked to natural hazards were recorded affecting more than 203 million people, claiming more than 238,000 lives and causing $77.9 billion of economic damage.[1] Compared to the previous reporting period, this represents a fourteenfold rise in disaster fatalities, most of which were associated with the earthquake of 12 January in Haiti that killed 222,570 people. The increase of over 200 per cent in the number of people affected compared to the previous reporting period, despite no significant rise in total number of disasters, underscores the fact that disaster risk is geographically concentrated, driven by the increasing exposure of people and property to natural hazards.[2]

2. The earthquake in Haiti was the second deadliest earthquake since 1900. The earthquake of 27 February in Chile caused $30 billion in damages, making it the third costliest earthquake during that same period.[1] Despite being an earthquake of greater magnitude than the one that struck Haiti, it killed only 562 people. Many thousands of people owe their lives to risk reduction measures adopted and enforced by the Government of Chile.

3. Hydrometeorological disasters accounted for 82 per cent of the total number of disasters. That figure is consistent with the 10-year trend of increasing risk associated with storms, floods, landslides and droughts, which comprised 78 per cent of disasters during this period. Storms and floods caused more than 5,500 deaths and affected more than 118 million people in Asia. The 2009 Pacific typhoon season was particularly active: between July and October 2009, the Philippines was struck by successive large typhoons that affected 5 million people — many of them repeatedly — and cost $883 million.[1] A second consecutive year of flooding in Brazil affected 680,000 people, resulting in $50 million in losses, and widespread floods affected populations in many West African countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Togo. Drought affected 51 million people in Asia, and 15.6 million more in Africa.[1]

4. Developing countries are less resilient to large or recurring shocks. Natural hazards kill more people in developing than in developed countries, and disaster-related economic losses, measured against a country's wealth, are relatively much larger in poor countries.[2] Disaster impacts undermine vulnerable livelihoods, countries' economic growth and progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. For example, the earthquake in Haiti killed 1,300 teachers and an estimated 38,000 students, and damaged or destroyed more than 4,000 schools.[3] The impact of this loss on Haiti's ability to recover and grow as a society and an economy may be felt for many decades to come. Critical hospitals and other health-care facilities in Haiti were also damaged or destroyed, and were consequently unable to continue service delivery to affected communities.

5. Disasters hit developed countries and transition economies as well. In Europe, floods and storms caused the most economic damage. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland experienced over $400 million in economic damage

[1] International Disaster Database, Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, 2010.

[2] *2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*, United Nations, 2009.

[3] J. Bakody, "A nationwide call to return to school brings hope to children in Haiti", UNICEF, 5 April 2010.

caused by floods in November 2009, and floods in Madeira, Portugal, caused 35 deaths and over $1.35 billion of economic damage. The winter storm Xynthia, which hit northern Europe in February and March 2010, killed more than 50 people in France and caused at least $2 billion to $4 billion in economic losses.[4] In May, catastrophic floods caused up to $430 million in damage in Hungary, and at least $3.6 billion in losses in Poland, making it one of the worst flood disasters in that country's history.

6. Ash spewed from Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano, which began erupting on 14 April 2010, and led to the temporary closure of Europe's airspace for seven days. This closure forced the cancellation of more than 100,000 flights, which affected approximately 10 million travellers and cost European businesses as much as $3.3 billion.[5] These costly disruptions underline the importance of assessing volcano risks and developing international and regional contingency plans in order to manage and minimize the impacts of future eruptions.

7. Disaster risk is an increasing problem in urban areas where risk, population and economic assets are concentrated. The largest and costliest disasters of the present reporting period affected urban areas. The earthquake of 14 April that struck China's rural Qinghai Province was of comparable magnitude to the earthquake in Haiti, but it only killed 2,187 people.[6] This represents less than 1 per cent of the lives lost in the Haiti catastrophe. Poorly planned urban environments, weak urban governance and the rapid growth of the urban population have increased exposure and transformed poverty into disaster risk. Haiti is but the latest example of this phenomenon. In the last decade, the urban population in developing countries has risen by 77 per cent, to nearly 2.6 billion people.[7] The number of people living in urban slums in developing countries has increased by more than 60 million during the same period.[8] This rapid growth is often characterized by large peri-urban areas with informal and illegal patterns of land use, a lack of infrastructure and basic services, and environmental degradation.[8] These figures underscore the importance of disaster risk reduction and the protection of critical infrastructure, especially of schools, health facilities and homes.

8. Rapid unplanned urbanization coupled with ecosystem degradation increases communities' vulnerability to floods, landslides, storm surges and seismic hazards. Owing to climate change, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are expected to increase.[9] Climate hazards will exacerbate the already severe environmental problems and living conditions generated by a failure of governance and development. These negative impacts of climate change are already a reality

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[4] "AIR estimates windstorm Xynthia insured losses at $2 to $4.2 billion", *claimsjournal.com*, 3 March 2010.

[5] "Volcanic ash cloud: EU to allow government support for airlines", *EUROPA-EU News*, 27 April 2010.

[6] UNICEF Situation Report (China), 23 April 2010.

[7] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2009 Revision*, 2009.

[8] United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *State of the World's Cities 2010/2011 — Cities for All: Bridging the Urban Divide*, 2010.

[9] *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis*, contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York).

and are likely to increase in the future, with cities of low and middle-income countries of the South particularly at risk.

II. Challenges and opportunities associated with the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

A. Update on the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action

9. In line with General Assembly resolution A/64/200, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat has been coordinating a broad consultative process with Member States, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to conduct a Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. The importance of the Review was highlighted by the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva from 16 to 19 June 2009. Through a series of workshops held at the senior level in all regions, four online debates, one-on-one interviews with key policymakers, in-depth studies and a comprehensive literature review, the Review is seeking to provide a critical analysis of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action over the first five years of its existence. National progress is being captured through the "HFA Monitor", an online tool launched in 2008, which allows countries to submit their progress reports on the Hyogo Framework on a regular basis. The Review will inform continued implementation through 2015 and provide initial thinking about post-2015 international cooperation on disaster risk reduction.

10. Preliminary results point to a broadly held view that the Hyogo Framework for Action has proved useful in guiding the global effort towards disaster risk reduction. The utility of the Hyogo Framework for Action has been recognized especially in raising awareness and in supporting the establishment of international, regional and national policies and legislation. A consistent element emerging from the workshops was the need for stronger and clearer governance mechanisms at the national level for disaster risk reduction. Another common element noted is that the work of the United Nations system agencies, funds, and programmes in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action is uneven across regions and sectors. Consequently, a more thorough analysis of the work of the United Nations is being commissioned as part of the Mid-Term Review and the results will be reflected in the report on the Review.

11. Available literature indicates that there has been much greater focus on the implementation of the five priorities for action than on the three broader strategic goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action. This point will be further explored to ascertain what specific measures may be taken to achieve a more holistic approach in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework over the next five years. Another important element, which was also highlighted in the *Global Assessment Report* in 2009, is that risk reduction is still not hardwired into the "business processes" of the development sectors, planning ministries and financial institutions. There is evidence of greater investment in disaster risk reduction, but most of the funding is still geared towards response preparedness rather than genuine disaster risk

reduction activities. The report on the Mid-Term Review will be published in early 2011 and its findings will be discussed at the third Global Platform in May 2011.

B. Monitoring progress of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*

12. Systematic monitoring of countries' progress against the Hyogo Framework for Action is now a biennial undertaking, in which more than 100 Governments participate. The large number of progress reports, coordinated by the Strategy secretariat and received through the online tool "HFA Monitor", shows growing national commitment to implement the Hyogo Framework. This is also reflected in the fact that several countries use the reporting process as a basis for their investment planning for national disaster risk reduction.

13. The Strategy secretariat continues to draw on the wider Strategy system in developing the *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*. The *Report* has established itself as the leading global source for the analysis of hazard risks and vulnerability trends, and of progress in disaster risk reduction. Monthly downloads of chapters of the *2009 Global Assessment Report* from the PreventionWeb exceed 12,000 across all four languages.

14. The 2011 edition of the *Global Assessment Report* aims to provide the international community and governments with improved data and analysis of disaster risk across the globe, and with strategic policy and relevant guidance to governments on how to accelerate progress against the Hyogo Framework while protecting existing development gains and securing investments in the Millennium Development Goals.

C. Current challenges, opportunities and areas for further action

15. A major challenge in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action is reaching vulnerable communities. While much progress has been made at the policy level globally, regionally and nationally, the benefits of that progress are yet to be felt locally. This is particularly true for resource provision; most of the focus has been at the national level, with limited resources and capacities reaching vulnerable communities, despite often strong motivation and capability to manage and reduce risk.

16. Reflecting often the deeply entrenched standard operating procedures of Governments and international organizations, the Hyogo Framework for Action therefore tends to be implemented in a top-down fashion. There are many initiatives and actors who engage consistently in a bottom-up approach, particularly the wealth of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which are all supporting the strengthening of community safety and resilience. Yet the opportunities for these organizations and the vulnerable people they represent to engage in dialogue and planning, as well as to access funding, continue to be limited.

17. In general, there needs to be far greater progress made in framing risk reduction as an issue of accountability. While many Governments and NGOs still focus on disaster management, the reduction of disaster risk needs to be linked

directly to development plans and accountability frameworks, with Governments assuming responsibility and showing political commitment.

18. As countries race to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, development investments, including hospital and school construction, are expected to increase. Such investments could potentially put millions of people at risk, if not done through a risk-sensitive approach. For example, collapsing schools are the number one killer of children in earthquakes, while damaged health facilities kill staff and patients and are unable to deliver life-saving health services to the survivors. Increasing resilience to natural hazards in different development sectors can accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

19. Investing in disaster risk reduction remains another major challenge. Links with development and climate change adaptation funding must be further developed to achieve sustainable and resilient economies and societies. Disaster risk reduction approaches to building resilience offer concrete opportunities for climate change adaptation — these could be more clearly recognized in adaptation funding instruments. Some countries, such as India, Maldives, Peru and Senegal have made significant progress in this area.

20. The calls at the Global Platform 2009 for additional benchmarks to promote investments in disaster risk reduction, provided further impetus to Governments seeking to develop an enabling policy environment. The calls to spend on disaster risk reduction 1 per cent of national development budgets (national and international investments) and 10 per cent of reconstruction and recovery financing, in addition to the existing target of 10 per cent of humanitarian aid, have proved motivating drivers.

21. Examples of this include the European Union, the United States of America, and Finland. After having adopted two strategies for disaster risk reduction, for developing countries and to its member States, an implementation plan for the former will soon be released by the European Union. A strategy that capitalizes on existing activities addressing disaster risk reduction has been developed by the United States Government through its Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance.

22. In its Evaluation of Natural Disasters and Climate Change, the Government of Finland has reviewed a whole range of that country's development cooperation policies, programmes and projects from the perspective of poverty reduction. The recommendations are being implemented as a complement to previous guidelines for disaster risk reduction in the forestry and water sectors. It also concluded that disaster risk reduction efforts brought benefits in preparing and enabling communities to adapt to climate change.

III. Coordination and guidance through the Strategy system

23. The main objectives of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction are to support system-wide coordination, resource mobilization, advocacy and development of strategic information for policy development. World disaster reduction campaigns, the *Global Assessment Report*, climate change and risk reduction advocacy and guidance for risk reduction as part of the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks have proven to be effective means of increasing coordination and coherence at all levels.

A. Strengthening global, regional and national level coordination

24. Progress has been made to build and further develop Strategy mechanisms to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction across the globe. At the global level, the biennial Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction has become the key multi-stakeholder mechanism to monitor and guide the implementation of disaster risk reduction at all levels.

25. The sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2007 and 2009 have witnessed an important increase in political will to manage disaster risk and reduce vulnerabilities. They have also highlighted the wealth of knowledge and experience available across countries and local communities in reducing disaster risk and vulnerabilities, and have generated considerable policy and programmatic ideas, captured by the Chair's Summary and the Conference Proceedings. Many Strategy system partners have stressed the need for follow-up between sessions of the Global Platform to ensure that the momentum generated is translated into concrete action. The need for an appropriate multi-stakeholder mechanism has become evident.

26. Participants at the 2009 session indicated that the Global Platform had further strengthened its role as the main global forum for disaster reduction, enabling the sharing of experience among stakeholders, and providing strategic and coherent guidance for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, thus accelerating worldwide momentum on disaster risk reduction. In addition, many practitioners within Governments, civil society organizations as well as scientific and academic communities expressed appreciation for the Global Platform Chair's Summary as a useful document for policy development, strategic prioritization and action.

27. The third session of the Global Platform will be held in Geneva from 8 to 13 May 2011. It will be particularly significant in reinforcing collaboration at the global and national levels as it will discuss the findings of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the second *Global Assessment Report*. Strengthened political resolve is needed given the high expectations for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action over the next five years.

28. The United Nations-World Bank partnership is an effective platform to address disaster risk reduction as an integrated development priority, bringing together a broad range of stakeholders, including developed countries, emerging economies, developing countries, United Nations system agencies, the multilateral financial institutions, the private sector and civil society. The Strategy secretariat and the World Bank have worked together closely since the establishment in 2006 of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. It is a long-term global partnership of the Strategy system established to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action through a coordinated programme for reversing the trend in disaster losses by 2015.

29. The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery provides proactive, upstream assistance to mainstream disaster risk reduction in strategic processes at the global level, including World Bank lending instruments, and several corporate strategies. The Global Facility also engages actively during the preparation stage of country development strategies and focuses on effects of disaster risk on economic growth and poverty reduction. This mainstreaming activity has had significant

impact and disaster risk reduction is increasingly becoming an essential pillar of Country Assistance Strategies and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. The Global Facility provides the basis for an overarching Multi-Donor Trust Fund for effective donor coordination and sustained financing. During 2007-2010, Global Facility donors have cumulatively pledged over $240 million for disaster risk reduction activities.

30. At the regional level, disaster risk reduction has been integrated into the agendas of many regional organizations, stakeholders, and decision-makers, supported by an expanding donor base. As a result of joint efforts by Strategy system partners, regional platforms and regional ministerial meetings have been established in all regions as main forums for information exchange and the promotion of tools for implementation. Better communication and stronger cooperation led to the development of various regional strategies and programmes of action, as well as in-depth risk assessments in Asia, Africa and the Arab region.

31. The Strategy secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office and other partners, provided expertise and assistance to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, which led to increasing awareness and commitment among United Nations Resident Coordinators. Representatives from United Nations country teams, the World Bank and other United Nations partner agencies at the global and regional levels were trained to act as resource persons for country offices.

32. Furthermore, the responsibility of the Resident Coordinators for promoting and supporting disaster risk reduction efforts was included in their terms of reference. The synthesis report of Resident Coordinators' annual reports for 2008 and 2009 reflected how United Nations country teams contributed to disaster risk reduction, as a cost-effective means to protect development gains, reduce poverty and adapt to climate change.

33. Mobilizing specific stakeholder groups or "actors of change" has led to a considerable increase in the political profile of disaster risk in the development sphere. Political mobilization for disaster risk reduction at the national level has taken place in all regions. The Strategy secretariat's advocacy efforts for 130 parliamentarians from 62 countries led to enhanced political support for disaster risk reduction.

34. In order to effectively support the Strategy's partners and mechanisms, including the Global Platform and regional platforms, the Strategy secretariat, under the leadership of my Special Representative, has embarked on a significant strengthening process. An external evaluation was requested, and its findings were discussed with Strategy partners in Geneva in early 2010. In addition, an audit by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) was requested and conducted in December 2009 and the final report produced in July 2010.

35. The OIOS audit has identified the need to strengthen further the institutional foundations of the Strategy secretariat and its setting within the United Nations Secretariat and the wider United Nations system, in order to enable it to discharge its mandated duties — "to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and

activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields". The external evaluation, echoed by many stakeholders within Governments, NGOs, and the scientific community, as well as the OIOS audit report, recognized the potential created by the newly established function of Special Representative for the furtherance of disaster risk reduction and the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

36. Recognizing that disaster risk reduction is not only a humanitarian question, but also at the centre of the development and environmental work of the United Nations, and the need for the Strategy secretariat to effectively engage all relevant stakeholders within the United Nations system, I intend to actively support the Global Platform 2011, in order to elevate the momentum for the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

B. Advocating for safer cities, schools and hospitals

37. Responding to the disaster risks linked to rapid urbanization and the need to accelerate local leadership and capacities, the Strategy secretariat coordinated the launching of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011, entitled "Making Cities Resilient: My city is getting ready". As agreed during a high-profile global conference sponsored by the City of Incheon, Republic of Korea, in August 2009, the objective of the campaign is to target and empower mayors, city councils and their local government associations. Local authorities are supported to raise the awareness of urban risk reduction options; to strengthen political commitment to include risk reduction in municipal development budgets; and to promote participatory urban development planning. The Strategy secretariat coordinated awareness-raising activities, and mobilized partners and political commitment through brokering technical cooperation opportunities and sharing of good practices among local governments. Global and regional launches, including city "sign-up" ceremonies and learning events, started in May 2010. By July 2010, 60 cities had signed up, including Port-au-Prince, Mexico City, Delhi, Colombo and Quito (see www.unisdr.org/campaign).

38. The online pledging initiative for the One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals Campaign was launched in Manila in April 2010. The initiative aims to improve school and hospital safety through individual, community and governmental advocacy and action. Developed in Asia, it expanded into the global domain, with more than 20 partners sponsoring as of July 2010. Over 570 pledges for 66,575 safe schools and health facilities were recorded by July 2010 (see http://www.safe-schools-hospitals.net).

39. The 2008-2009 World Disaster Reduction Campaign entitled "Hospitals safe from disaster" continues to make an impact, for example, with the adoption of the Kathmandu Declaration on Protecting Health Facilities from Disasters by the Health Ministers of the member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region and the application of the revised Hospital Safety Index to many facilities in several regions. A WHO-led thematic platform on disaster risk reduction and health was established, aimed at building a global partnership for safer hospitals. It adopted time-bound recommendations to retrofit the most critical and vulnerable health facilities, and to develop comprehensive policies and programmes by 2015. This initiative continues as a strong component of the Making Cities Resilient campaign.

C. Strengthening the funding arrangements for the Strategy

40. The United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction was created to enable the funding of the Strategy secretariat. As noted in my 2008 report (A/63/351), the Trust Fund has enabled the funding of the Strategy secretariat and certain activities of Strategy system partners. However, the short-term, extrabudgetary and voluntary nature of the income has not yet provided the Strategy secretariat with sufficiently stable and predictable funding to enable it to perform its key management and support functions on a sustainable basis for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, including in the areas of intergovernmental and inter-agency facilitation, resource mobilization and advocacy, knowledge management and reporting.

41. The response from donors to the Strategy secretariat and support for the expansion of the Trust Fund have been mixed. The number of donors expanded thanks to dedicated resource mobilization efforts, including first-time contributions from Brazil, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States (United States Agency for International Development-Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance). However, the top 15 donors in 2008-2009 (Sweden, the United Kingdom, the World Bank, the European Commission, Germany, Norway, Australia, Japan, Switzerland, Spain, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Canada) still accounted for 97 per cent of total income, out of a total of 24 donors. The secretariat was successful in increasing support to the Strategy's regional programming, and has also initiated private sector engagement intended to yield results in the future.

42. Income generation overall proved challenging, particularly in 2009, with three issues identified: lack of, or decreases in funding; predictability; and conditionality. The general economic downturn owing to the global financial crisis was quoted by some donors as a cause for a more conservative approach for providing resources in 2009.

43. The secretariat of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/DAC) made the important decision, at its Annual Meeting in June 2010, to include the Strategy secretariat in its Annex 2 list of organizations eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA). This means that donors may now contribute unearmarked funding in support of the core functions of the Strategy secretariat and report this as ODA investment. It also prepares the ground for further discussion on dedicated reporting lines for disaster reduction within ODA — thereby greatly facilitating an improved understanding of international investment flows.

44. The Strategy secretariat has made considerable efforts to address the lack of predictability by strengthening its management practices and reviewing its financing methods. At the same time, the external evaluation and the audit have highlighted the need to further strengthen certain critical and core areas of work in order to ensure the effective discharge of the mandate entrusted to the Strategy secretariat, notably: partnership development; communications; policy development and support to the Global Platform for Disaster Reduction as the main global forum and the preparation of critical reports as requested by the Hyogo Framework for Action; knowledge management; resource mobilization; regional coordination and support; and management. In that context, in the OIOS audit report, it was recommended that

management consider regular budget allocations to provide basic core support. This would contribute significantly to securing additional funding.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

45. The movement to reduce disaster risk is accelerating worldwide. The past 12 months saw a clear increase in the number of new actors and stakeholder groups — such as parliamentarians and city networks — taking an active part in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. While some good progress has been made in several priority areas of the Framework, the rapid pace of increase in vulnerability is creating additional challenges for implementation at the national and local levels.

46. One major challenge in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action remains reaching the most vulnerable and poor communities. As highlighted at the Global Platform in 2009, participatory and grass-roots processes are often not adequately supported by the central or local governments, and the methods, knowledge and tools generated are not being adequately brought into the mainstream of policy and implementation. There is a pressing need to build institutions, including legal frameworks, to sustain disaster risk reduction action.

47. The Global Platform recognized the drastic mismatch between the resources required to address disaster risk in developing countries and those actually available. Specific targets were proposed in order to mainstream disaster risk reduction both in the humanitarian and development funding policies. This call has proved a motivating factor for some Governments already. However, additional efforts are still required if the goals of the Hyogo Framework are to be achieved by 2015.

48. 2010 marks the tenth anniversary of the creation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction as well as the mid-point of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. The preliminary results of the ongoing Mid-Term Review indicate that the Hyogo Framework for Action has proved to be a useful framework in guiding the global effort towards a more resilient world. At the same time, they reveal an uneven progress across regions and different sectors. The Mid-Term Review will be discussed at the third session of the Global Platform, which will provide an important opportunity to address strategic and fundamental matters in order to accelerate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

49. The following are recommended.

(a) Accelerate the systematic implementation of the strategic goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action at the regional, national and local levels

50. I urge Member States to accelerate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action by strengthening their national disaster risk reduction capacities, and by integrating disaster risk reduction into development agendas, and through active participation in the Strategy system, the Mid-Term Review process and the third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in May 2011.

51. The United Nations system will make every effort to accelerate its full integration and mainstreaming of risk reduction into all its programmes and

activities to ensure that it contributes to the achievement of the Hyogo Framework for Action as well as to the Millennium Development Goals.

(b) Invest today for a safer tomorrow to ensure the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

52. A more integrated framework for reducing disaster risk and increasing resilience to natural hazards in different development sectors can have multiplier effects and accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. To this end, I encourage Member States to ensure that plans to scale up action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals consider disaster risk. I call on Member States to dedicate substantially greater funds from national budgets to reduce disaster risk, adapt to climate change, and safeguard development, and to take necessary action to halve the loss of life from disasters by 2015, which marks the deadline both for the Millennium Development Goals as well as for the Hyogo Framework for Action.

53. I recommend that Member States consider adopting investment benchmarks, as suggested at the 2009 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, such as the concept of allocating 10 per cent of humanitarian relief and reconstruction funds, 1 per cent of national development funding, and 30 per cent of national climate change adaptation funds for disaster risk reduction. Together with OECD/DAC, Member States are also encouraged to develop explicit disaster risk reduction investment and reporting guidelines in ODA investments.

(c) Support the resilient cities initiative

54. I strongly urge Member States to join the global initiative Making Cities Resilient 2010-2011: My city is getting ready, to increase the resilience of cities and urban areas, in particular by raising the awareness of citizens and local governments of risk reduction options and by mobilizing political commitment and support among local governments to include risk reduction aspects in urban development planning and critical infrastructure investments, such as schools and hospitals.

(d) Strengthen the funding arrangements for the Strategy

55. In the light of the increasing need to strengthen international cooperation efforts in support of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and, consequently, of the Strategy secretariat's support activities, I call on Member States and Strategy stakeholders to augment their financial contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction to ensure adequate and flexible support for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

56. Considering the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 64/200 and the recommendations contained in the OIOS report, and with a view to stabilizing the financial base of the secretariat and its capacity to mobilize partnerships for disaster risk reduction, I feel the stage may have been reached when there may be a need to consider supporting an allocation from the assessed budget to fund the secretariat's core and recurrent activities. I look forward to Member States' consideration of this matter.

Annex I

Specific information on progress made in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action

1. National Governments regularly submit reports on progress against the Hyogo Framework for Action. The latest reporting cycle was initiated in mid-July 2010 and the results will be ready for the third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, in May 2011. The following sections provide an overview of achievements as reported to the Strategy secretariat by partners in relation to the five priority areas of the Hyogo Framework.

A. Action at the national level

Priority 1
Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation

2. Coordination at the national level improved in several countries, with new national and bilateral partnerships formed. Ministers are setting up national mechanisms to address disaster risk reduction in their countries and are meeting regularly in regional settings.

3. Afghanistan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Finland, Guatemala, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco and Poland established national platforms for disaster risk reduction during the reporting period. Currently, altogether 61 countries have established such multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms.

4. Several countries have made progress in national disaster risk reduction policies, strategies and legislative frameworks. Maldives, Nepal, the Philippines and Viet Nam went through participatory processes resulting in national plans for disaster risk reduction. Tajikistan endorsed and adopted the national disaster risk management strategy and action plan for the next five years. Tonga and the Federated States of Micronesia have started to develop national disaster risk reduction action plans. Namibia has developed a new bill on disaster risk management. The Parliament of Serbia passed a new law improving its disaster risk reduction system. Gambia, Ghana and Togo revised their national policies for disaster risk reduction with elements of climate change adaptation. Senegal developed a national programme on disaster risk reduction, led by the Ministry of the Interior.

5. The Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala, Mali and Mexico revised their institutional and legislative frameworks, moving the focus from response to risk reduction. A multi-stakeholder network in the Philippines drafted comprehensive legislation on disaster risk reduction linked to climate change adaptation, passed by Congress in May 2010.

6. Indonesia made progress in formulating a National Action Plan 2010-2013 for disaster risk reduction. After the earthquake, Haiti created a vulnerability reduction unit under the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation, to mainstream disaster risk reduction in the national development agenda. Niue has integrated

disaster risk reduction into its new National Strategic Plan 2009-2013 guiding the country's development.

7. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey organized national policy dialogues on disaster risk reduction to address the implementation of the Hyogo Framework in legislation, institutional coordination, planning, early warning and risk assessments. Similar efforts have been made in Kosovo.[a]

Priority 2
Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

8. In Pakistan, early warning systems for droughts, tsunamis and communicable diseases were completed in high-risk districts. Training courses on disaster risk management and earthquake safe construction were conducted in 66 districts. In Georgia, a thorough national risk assessment was undertaken by scientists and academic institutions to serve as the basis for a national strategy for disaster risk reduction.

9. A flood and landslide early warning system was developed in La Paz, Plurinational State of Bolivia; and an early warning network for Central America was coordinated by the Organization of American States. In Guatemala, vulnerability and risk mapping is being carried out for municipalities prone to floods to guide city planning and to enhance disaster preparedness.

10. In Djibouti, the new, comprehensive approach to risk assessment enables the development of versatile and effective tools for the evaluation and communication of risk, sensitizing decision makers to potential losses deriving from natural hazards. At the municipal level, this work helps to quantify the risk associated with climate change and improves land use planning to incorporate risk management.

11. A risk assessment in Dakar, has become a key building block of sustainable disaster risk reduction. The assessment, undertaken by the Government's municipal development agency, with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, combined a state-of-the-art spatial study of natural hazards and climate change risks with an analysis of the institutional framework for disaster risk management in the city. Based on this analysis, an action plan has identified ways to lower Dakar's vulnerability even while its population is growing rapidly.

12. Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina held workshops on how to develop effective national platforms for disaster risk reduction, supported by the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative and the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-Eastern Europe. Similar workshops were held in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Priority 3
Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

13. In Viet Nam, over 500 Government staff from the agriculture, education, and health sectors were trained in early warning, preparedness and recovery. The methodology for damage and loss assessment will be replicated at the provincial and

[a] In the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

district levels, in partnership with other development agencies. Similarly, in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Government staff were trained on the methodology for damage and loss assessment. In Indonesia, the National Disaster Management Agency was supported through training-of-trainers modules. Along with other programmes, these efforts have strengthened recovery planning and capacities in post-disaster needs assessments.

14. In Ecuador, a participatory process and active communication strategy seeks to strengthen the local disaster risk reduction capacity of the municipal government, academia, community organizations, and the private sector. In the Central African Republic, community health workers were trained in the capital city on the maintenance of drainage systems, solid waste management, health and hygiene, and flood preparedness.

15. In Maldives, Tajikistan and the United Republic of Tanzania, teachers' guides and students' books were developed to mainstream disaster risk reduction into education. In Central Asia, 40 universities have incorporated disaster risk reduction as an optional programme. Several countries also integrated disaster risk reduction into school curricula and safety programmes, triggered by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Strategy secretariat.

Priority 4
Reduce the underlying risk factors

16. Madagascar upgraded its cyclone-proofing for public infrastructure and introduced new standards into national legislation. In the new regulation, both builders and approvers are potentially liable in case of building failure — and could be made to pay compensatory damages established by the penal code. This innovation addresses a major weakness in the disaster risk management framework of many developing countries, where codes exist but are not respected.

17. Viet Nam, supported by the Global Facility, assessed the impact of climate change on urban drainage infrastructure in three coastal cities. This assessment included expected changes within the lifespan of the infrastructure improving the system's capacity to handle more frequent storms, increased rainfall and rising sea levels.

18. Yemen is strengthening Sana'a's long-term development strategy through an assessment of the major risks from floods and landslides. Sana'a's municipality took the decision to embed hazard risk management as a core pillar to their long-term city development strategy for sustainable development.

19. Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Peru are considering disaster risk reduction tools in their land-use planning and public investment systems. A Global Facility study of land zoning plans in Guatemala will influence the decision-making process that will determine which municipal areas are safer.

20. The Islamic Republic of Iran developed a plan to implement measures to make hospitals safer from disasters. India is implementing a $350 million national project on cyclone mitigation to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of more than 50 million people in the coastal areas. In Tajikistan, 16 hospitals are being retrofitted to withstand hazards and primary health-care facilities are being rehabilitated. Assessments of health facilities were also conducted in Oman, Sudan, and in Latin

America and the Caribbean. In December 2009, Uzbekistan finalized a national programme with 9,600 schools assessed for physical vulnerability to earthquakes, followed by retrofitting and reconstruction as needed.

21. In Ethiopia, the World Food Programme (WFP) has supported local authorities through the construction of dams, the rehabilitation of land through terracing, and reforestation. The initiative has helped to turn dry lands into productive assets, and communities have seen the food security of households increased by 50 per cent.

22. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and its National Societies invested over $63 million in community-based disaster risk reduction, including activities in preparedness, food security, livelihoods and climate change adaptation. Over 13.5 million vulnerable people in over 113 countries were supported to live in more resilient communities.

Priority 5
Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

23. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is involved in more than 50 countries in strengthening disaster preparedness measures in contingency plans. Inter-agency exercises to strengthen governmental capacities through pre-disaster recovery planning were undertaken in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic. In Nepal, three major earthquake simulation exercises were organized in 2009-2010.

24. Ethiopia developed the Livelihood, Early Assessment and Protection indicator, providing an objective measurable indicator based on water balance and crop growth data that trigger early protection measures. In Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Global Risk Identification Programme have supported local authorities in mapping risk for contingency planning and disaster risk reduction.

25. Training to build national capacities for health emergency management have been conducted by national agencies supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners on safe hospitals and hospital preparedness, mass casualty management and disaster needs assessment.

B. Action at the regional level

26. Sustained engagement in strengthening the capacity of regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations in disaster risk reduction in Africa, the Americas, South-Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Northern Africa and Asia and the Pacific have significantly empowered subregional partners.

27. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies adapted its global framework for community safety and resilience to regionally owned and targeted disaster risk reduction frameworks, for example in South-East Asia, the Americas, and Africa specifically for food security, recognizing the necessary facilitating role regional centres provide to link global policy to local action.

28. **Africa**: At the Second Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa, held in Nairobi in April 2010, ministers adopted the extended Africa Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for

Disaster Risk Reduction. In the conference declaration all member States were asked to: (a) report on the relative increase in allocation to disaster risk reduction; (b) encourage steps towards an African disaster risk pool; (c) strengthen the role of the regional economic commissions; and (d) recognize the increased importance of community-based activities.

29. The Ministerial Conference, and preceding expert meeting, was organized by the African Union Commission, the Government of Kenya, and the Strategy secretariat, in collaboration with the Global Facility.

30. The First Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa was held in tandem with the above-mentioned Ministerial Conference on disaster risk reduction. In the conference declaration, ministers committed themselves to strengthen national meteorological services by providing them with adequate institutional frameworks and resources, to fully contribute to wider disaster risk reduction efforts.

31. The African Centre for Disaster Studies held a course on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in South Africa, focusing on multisectoral approaches for reducing disaster risk and climate change adaptation in the context of sustainable development.

32. Disaster risk reduction focal points from member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) were trained on risk assessment in Senegal, in November 2009. The training concluded with recommendations for strengthening West African capacity in risk assessment and mapping; and for reinforcing the role of ECOWAS as a facilitating body to accelerate the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. ECOWAS also convened a regional workshop on integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, in Accra in June 2010.

33. **Arab States**: Cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations, in particular the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, led to commitments by its member States for the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in regional policies on climate change, environment and disaster management coordination mechanisms. The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment is developing an Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Arab Resilient Cities Network was established and comprises regional experts whose role is to inform the global campaign on regional perspectives and enhance knowledge exchange and identification of good practices.

34. Collaboration between the Strategy secretariat, the Global Facility and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) led to training of officials from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen in developing databases on disaster losses with a view to building institutional capacities in managing risk information systems. This will enable informed decision-making processes in risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

35. The Strategy secretariat, the Global Facility, UNDP and the Syrian Ministry for Local Administration convened the Regional Workshop on Urban Risk Reduction, in Damascus in November 2009, to discuss regional priorities and challenges with respect to urban risk reduction. Outcomes included the establishment of a regional task force for urban risk reduction.

36. **Asia and the Pacific**: Efforts by Strategy system partners in Asia led to more substantial political commitment for disaster risk reduction in the region. The Strategy's Asia Partnership mechanism further developed collaboration among its main actors such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission.

37. Regional cooperation was significantly enhanced through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, ratified by the member States of ASEAN and entered into force in December 2009. The Agreement is the region's principal disaster management framework and contains provisions on disaster risk identification, monitoring and early warning, prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, rehabilitation, technical cooperation and research, as well as mechanisms for coordination.

38. In South-East Asia, assessments of national capacities in disaster risk reduction were carried out in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Viet Nam, supported by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Bank and the Strategy secretariat.

39. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction-Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific meeting on the topic "Coastal and climate hazards: priorities for the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia" took place in Bangkok in September 2009, to review joint regional priorities of the environment and disaster risk reduction communities, as well as those of various bilateral and multilateral funding mechanisms available. The meeting identified technical assistance priorities for the coming years.

40. The programme entitled "Building resilience to tsunamis in the Indian Ocean region", coordinated by the Strategy secretariat and funded by the European Commission, was completed with a review workshop among implementing partners and Governments. Follow-up actions and national priorities that emerged from the programme have been identified by partners.

41. Regional cooperation in the Pacific was enhanced through a quadripartite agreement between the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission, the secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Strategy secretariat and the World Bank. The agreement on regional collaboration in disaster risk reduction in the Pacific will guide regional cooperation among the four partners until 2015 and accelerate efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development processes.

42. **The Americas**: The second Hemispheric Encounter on National Mechanisms and Networks for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in collaboration with the Government of Colombia and the Organization of American States. The event, entitled "Encounter of Santa Marta: from theory to practice", showcased over 100 good practices, showing that partners are moving from words into action.

43. The Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment provides comprehensive tools for risk analysis and management and for capacity-building initiatives for national institutions in six countries. Within the Central American Integration

System, a more coordinated approach is being developed to deal with the environment, disaster risk reduction, climate change and development.

44. In Central America and the Caribbean, WMO, with support from the Coordinating Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, UNDP, the Strategy secretariat, the World Bank, IFRC and WFP, among others, organized a multi-hazard early warning systems training in Costa Rica. A similar regional cooperation programme will be developed for the Caribbean, building on existing capacities and partnerships in the region.

45. A new intergovernmental alliance in the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) region was created in July 2009 in Asunción, at the Specialized Meeting on Socio-natural Disaster Risk Reduction, Civil Defence, Civil Protection and Humanitarian Assistance, based on the MERCOSUR Presidential Statement on Humanitarian Assistance.

46. Within the Caribbean, the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy has been rolled out, including institutional changes such as the transition from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency to the newly created Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, as of 1 September 2009.

47. **Europe and Central Asia**: The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction was established in London in November 2009 with support from the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the Strategy secretariat. The Forum is currently co-chaired by Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

48. Advocacy efforts led to increased engagement of the European Union and the European Commission in disaster risk reduction. Among others, the European Commission adopted two communications for promoting disaster risk reduction: one within the European region and the other in support of developing countries. The latter has been adopted into an European Commission-wide strategy for disaster risk reduction, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action. The European Commission is now including disaster risk reduction into the sector plans designed for South-Eastern Europe candidate countries for European Union accession. In that regard, a 3 million euros programme for disaster risk reduction for 2008-2013 is being implemented in the region by UNDP, WMO and other partners.

49. Based on demand by countries to coordinate transboundary actions in disaster risk reduction in South-Eastern Europe, the Strategy secretariat and the World Bank helped Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-Eastern Europe to develop a web-based management information system to facilitate knowledge and information-sharing among the countries of South-East Europe.

50. WMO, in collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat, facilitated the establishment of the Drought Management Centre for South-Eastern Europe, involving Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey.

51. In South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Strategy secretariat is collaborating with UNICEF to assess the status of disaster risk reduction education in schools.

52. In Central Asia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Caucasus, initiatives on disaster risk reduction were developed within the education sector and for poverty reduction strategies, development planning, disaster preparedness and response capacities. A risk assessment for Central Asia and the Caucasus was carried out in 2009, including assessment of disaster risk financing and risk transfer, and the status and condition of hydrometeorological services.

53. The Central Asian Coordination Centre on Disaster Response and Risk Reduction was established in Almaty, Kazakhstan, to help Governments in the region to jointly address transboundary hazards.

C. Action at the international level

Priority 1
Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority

54. The World Bank, through the Global Facility, has continued to proactively promote disaster risk reduction as one of the strategic pillars in Country Assistance Strategies and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, the World Bank lending instruments, and several corporate strategies. Disaster risk is recognized as a challenge to the strategy in 48 countries, and disaster risk reduction is recognized as one of the strategic pillars in 11 countries, and a cross-cutting issue in 26 countries.

55. The Global Facility's South-South cooperation programme fosters innovation through cooperation among southern Governments and research institutions. The first grant was awarded to create a partnership among three disaster-prone cities in Ecuador, Nepal and the Philippines, for the exchange of knowledge and good practice in risk sensitive land-use planning and emergency management systems. In 2010, a second grant was given to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to forge partnership among East African countries to strengthen institutional arrangements for disaster preparedness and climate monitoring.

56. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies scaled up its resilience programming around the globe. To ensure prioritization and proper targeting at the national level, efforts focus on improving accountability and impact, as well as cost-effectiveness, through such tools as cost-benefit analysis.

Priority 2
Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

57. Efforts were made in a number of regions to support higher investments in effective early warning systems. The ASEAN initiative on disaster risk mitigation and adaptation, in cooperation with the Global Facility, the Strategy secretariat, WMO and meteorological services in South-East Asian countries, serves as the foundation for investment priorities in early warning, disaster risk reduction and financing, including disaster risk insurance. In Central Asia, a hydrometeorological study is under finalization to guide new investment in this area.

58. UNEP initiated a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Methodology Project to develop an evidence-based tool that considers environmental and climatic factors to assist effective decision-making in public investment. The project demonstrates the value of ecosystem services for hazard mitigation and livelihoods protection, often neglected by development planners. Pilot tested in Jamaica, the project provided

quantifiable information on the role of coral reefs and sea grasses in coastal protection from storm surges and sea-level rise. WHO established the Vulnerability and Risk Analysis and Mapping unit at the WHO Mediterranean Centre for Health Risk Reduction to support regional and national risk assessments and capacity development.

59. UNESCO strengthened international and regional networks on knowledge-sharing and capacity-building for earthquake risk mitigation. The international platform on seismic risk information conducted several workshops on earthquake risk reduction in the Mediterranean and Asian regions. UNESCO organized, with the Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), a specialized workshop on mitigating the impact of geological hazards. UNESCO is leading the efforts in GEOSS to develop a community of practice on geo-hazards; and currently runs 10 international research and capacity-building projects to strengthen science-based decision-making.

60. A partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was revitalized to accelerate the implementation of the goals of the Hyogo Framework. An example is the WFP-IFAD Weather Risk Management Facility which has been instrumental in implementing successful projects.

Priority 3
Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

61. PreventionWeb has become the global hub for information-sharing on disaster risk reduction, with over 560,000 unique users and 7,500 key documents from over 1,600 sources. Content includes the revised United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction (2009) in six languages.

62. The UNICEF/Save the Children-led education cluster continues to promote disaster risk reduction. While work has started on guidance, tools and good practices, the cluster continues to seek strategies to better link humanitarian actions with disaster risk reduction in education sector plans.

Priority 4
Reduce the underlying risk factors

63. The Partnership on Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, a global thematic platform of the Strategy system,[b] focuses on policy advocacy and capacity development to raise awareness of the role of ecosystems in disaster risk reduction. It connects the environmental science and development communities to develop more effective risk reduction strategies based on scientific knowledge and practice. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Global Facility and the Strategy secretariat are promoting together biodiversity conservation and protected areas as a means of disaster risk reduction for local communities.

[b] Partners: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations University (UNU), IUCN, ProAct Network, the Strategy secretariat, UNDP, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, WWF, Global Fire Monitoring Centre and the Stockholm Environment Institute.

64. UNEP is developing a disaster risk reduction strategy for 2010-2011. The portfolio includes global and national advocacy and field-based interventions in vulnerable countries with environment hotspots. It seeks to enhance national institutional capacity to reduce disaster risk through improved environmental management. In the Asia-Pacific region, UNEP, with the Strategy secretariat and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, provided training to national coastal zone managers on the integration of disaster risk reduction in coastal zone management in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

65. A total of 188 WFP projects were active in the reporting period; 45 per cent of these, covering 53 countries, have a climate change or disaster risk reduction-related activity, with an estimated total budget of $641 million. These include activities in agriculture, land management, water conservation, forestry, infrastructure rehabilitation and building and capacity-building.

66. As countries seek to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, hospital and school construction is expected to increase. To ensure higher standards of hazard resilience, a guide book on safe school construction was developed and translated into Chinese, Bahasa and Hindi for dissemination at the local level.

67. The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery supports disaster-prone countries to develop innovative disaster-risk pooling solutions. In the Pacific islands, a regional catastrophe risk pool, merging the emergency reserve funds of several island States with the financial capacity of the international capital market, is being established. The Strategy secretariat, the World Bank and the Regional Cooperation Council for South-Eastern Europe set up a regional South-Eastern and Central Europe Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility owned by countries and managed by the private sector to cover catastrophic events through regional funding.

Priority 5
Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

68. The humanitarian community continued its preparedness work consistent with priority 5 of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Within the context of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) a survey of the role of its member agencies in preparedness was undertaken and the results, gaps analysis and recommendations will be acted upon. It emphasized the need to invest in building the preparedness capacities of national and local authorities and the importance of developing capacities in an integrated manner — linked specifically to national development objectives and national multi-hazard disaster reduction plans.

69. OCHA has been actively engaged with partners in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, in particular on disaster preparedness. This has included support to both regional and national partners in the area of training and mainstreaming disaster preparedness measures in contingency plans and response plans. In addition, OCHA has supported several regional organizations, such as ECOWAS for regional preparedness plans.

70. Members of the IASC Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery developed thematic and procedural guidance on post-disaster needs assessment and recovery frameworks in a range of sectors.

71. The International Recovery Platform mechanism supported the development of the online tool for the Post-Disaster Needs Assessments mechanism, which is

coordinated by the World Bank, the United Nations and the European Commission and activated upon request by Governments. The new online tool brings uniformity to the process of assessment ex-post and promotes the inclusive participation of all partners. The International Recovery Platform is finalizing guidance notes on recovery practice to facilitate and inform how to "build back better" in countries affected by disasters.

72. The preparedness capacity of WHO and health partners to respond to disasters has been strengthened through the implementation of the Global Health Cluster and the development of guidance, tools and training programmes.

Annex II

Reduction of vulnerability to severe climate-related hazards

1. In response to General Assembly resolution 63/217, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system partners have been actively enhancing coordination between adaptation to climate change and disaster management strategies at international, regional and national levels. At the international level, as part of its ongoing advocacy with the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Strategy secretariat enabled the participation of disaster risk reduction experts from 10 developing countries (Argentina, Colombia, the Cook Islands, Ghana, Mexico, the Philippines, Peru, Samoa, the Sudan and Viet Nam) to assist their national delegations in climate change negotiations. It also published a briefing note entitled, "Adaptation to climate change by reducing disaster risks: country practices and lessons", showcasing the efforts of national and local governments to integrate disaster risk reduction and adaptation plans and programmes.

2. Four consultative meetings with parliamentarians from Africa, Latin America and Europe were organized on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. These resulted in the first parliamentarian meeting on climate change and disaster risk reduction for Latin America, organized at the initiative of the Costa Rica Legislative Assembly, as well as the launch of the Black and Green, Ready to Lead campaign in Africa. A parliamentarian declaration of commitment was adopted at the International Round Table of Parliamentarians at the high-level segment of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Copenhagen. Collaboration with parliamentarians has also resulted in a resolution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in which IPU urged the development of national legislation that would ensure synergy between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

3. The Strategy secretariat and its partners shared technical knowledge of disaster risk reduction strategies and methods through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation on Climate Change. Recent collaboration focused on promoting regional adaptation centres to build upon existing disaster risk reduction networks and centres.

4. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report, entitled "Managing the risk of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation", is being prepared by leading experts on disaster risk reduction, climate change science and adaptation, to be completed in 2011. This collaborative process is enabling the strengthening of each discipline's conceptual frameworks as well as identifying current disaster reduction practices that are useful for adaptation.

5. The World Climate Conference-3 established a Global Framework for Climate Services to improve the quality of climate information and services, especially to the most vulnerable, to adverse impact of climate variability and change. The High-Level Task Force is now working to convert the Framework into an operational system and to propose an implementation plan for States to adopt at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Congress in May 2011.

6. Even without an agreement on climate change, national and local governments and mayors are taking collaborative action to coordinate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The global launch of the Making Cities Resilient campaign took place in Bonn, Germany, in May 2010, in collaboration with the Local Governments for Sustainability and World Mayors Council on Climate Change, in the framework of the Mayors Adaptation Forum at the Resilient Cities 2010 Congress. The Bonn Declaration of the Mayors Adaptation Forum affirms commitment to local climate adaptation action and to the implementation of the campaign.

7. WMO is establishing regional climate centres worldwide that will create regional climate products including long-range forecasts. This will strengthen the capacity of WMO members in a given region to deliver better climate services to national users. The Beijing Climate Centre and the Tokyo Climate Centre have been designated as regional climate centres. Europe is implementing a pilot phase network, and Africa has initiated the implementation plan for establishing regional climate centres.

Annex III

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

1. In response to General Assembly resolution 63/215, the International Research Centre on El Niño, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, has developed into a reference centre on climate services and climate-related disasters risk reduction in the Andean region — the Western coast of South America — and globally. Its main contributions are in the area of climate research, supporting applied studies with data collection and contributing to the periodic El Niño/La Niña Updates, coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

2. The Centre developed a number of tools, including a new climate database for the Western coast of South America (El Niño/Southern Oscillation-sensitive countries) and a regional climate information system for risk management in the agriculture sector. This system includes the improvement of national capacities on climate statistical and dynamical forecast, climate-agriculture risk mapping, capacity-building — with more than 150 trained experts — and climate information dissemination. In addition, training packages on climate consequences, risk management, early warning systems and adaptation strategies reached 560 community leaders in the region.

3. WMO has established a consensus mechanism for the development of updates on El Niño/La Niña conditions, to which the Centre and many climate centres and climate expert organizations contribute. This initiative has been well received worldwide and is instrumental in improving consistency in terminology and the uptake of seasonal information. It can be extended to other aspects of long-range forecasts and is being considered for global seasonal climate updates.

4. The Regional Climate Outlook Forums, supported by WMO in partnership with a number of other agencies, brought together national, regional and international climate experts, on an operational basis. They produce regional climate outlooks based on input from national meteorological and hydrological services, regional institutions, regional climate centres and global producers of climate predictions. Through interaction with policymakers and practitioners, the Forums assess the likely implications of the outlooks on the most pertinent sectors. The Forums meet regularly in Africa, South America, Central America, Asia, the Pacific Islands, the Caribbean and South-Eastern Europe.